IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The surface-coated cutting tool according to claim [[1]] 10, wherein

the outermost layer has a thickness of 0.1-2 μm.

3. (Currently Amended) The surface-coated cutting tool according to claim [[1]] 10, wherein

the carbonitride of TiSi has an average crystal diameter of at most 0.1 μm.

4. (Currently Amended) The surface-coated cutting tool according to claim [[1]] 10, wherein

said inner layer is composed of a compound containing $(Al_{1-a-b}Cr_aV_b)$ (where $0 \leq a \leq 0.5$, $0 \leq b \leq 0.5$, $0 \neq a+b \leq 0.5$) and at least one of elements that are carbon, nitrogen and oxygen.

5. (Original) The surface-coated cutting tool according to claim 4, wherein

said a+b satisfies $0.3 < a+b < 0.45$.

6. (Original) The surface-coated cutting tool according to claim 4, wherein

said a has a value satisfying $0 < a < 0.35$ and said b has a value satisfying $0 < b < 0.35$.

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7. (Original) The surface-coated cutting tool according to claim 4, wherein

said a and b have respective values satisfying $20 < a/b < 100$.

8. (Currently Amended) The surface-coated cutting tool according to claim [[1]] 10,

wherein

the inner layer contains, in atomic percent, less than 5 % of Ti.

9. (Currently Amended) The surface-coated cutting tool according to claim [[1]] 10,

wherein

the inner layer contains, in atomic percent, at most 30 % of Si and/or B.

10. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A surface-coated cutting tool, comprising:

a base material coated with an inner layer formed on the base material and an outermost

layer formed on the inner layer,

wherein the inner layer being composed of a compound containing Al, at least one of

elements Cr and V and at least one element selected from the group consisting of nitrogen,

carbon and oxygen,

the outermost layer being composed of a carbonitride of TiSi, whereinand

the surface-coated cutting tool has a TiSiN layer between the base material and the inner

layer and/or between the inner layer and the outermost layer.

11. (Currently Amended) The surface-coated cutting tool according to claim [[1]] 10,

wherein

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the inner layer is divided by a $TiSiC_xN_{1-x}$ (where $0 \leq x \leq 0.5$) layer.

12. (Original) The surface-coated cutting tool according to claim 11, wherein said $TiSiC_xN_{1-x}$ is TiSiN.

13. (Currently Amended) The surface-coated cutting tool according to claim [[1]] 10, wherein

the base material is coated with the layers that have a total thickness of 0.5-8 μm.

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